



# SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

In March 2003 the Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.1 percent, as shown in Southeast Idaho Table 1. This was one-tenth of a percentage point less than February 2003 and 1.5 percent less than March 2002. The area's unemployment rate was four-tenths of a percentage point below Idaho's unemployment rate of 5.5 percent and seven-tenths of a percentage point below the U.S. unemployment rate of 5.8 percent.

Mild weather in March 2003 allowed agricultural and construction activities to begin earlier than in March 2002, boosting employment this year.

*Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* decreased slightly (0.2 percent) in March 2003 from February 2003. Job losses occurred in both the *Goods-Producing* and *Service-Producing* sectors. In the *Goods-Producing Industries*, which include *Natural Resources & Mining*, *Construction*, and *Manufacturing*, job losses in *Manufacturing* (-20) slightly outpaced job gains in *Construction* (10) for an overall decrease of 10 jobs. The *Service-Producing Industries*, which include *Trade, Transportation & Utilities*, *Information*, *Financial Activities*, *Professional & Business Service*, *Educational & Health Services*, *Leisure & Hospitality*, *Government Education*, and *Government Administration*, lost 60 jobs in March 2003 from February 2003. Job gains and losses followed typical patterns for this time of year when weather has a significant impact on the labor market. *Wholesale Trade* (20) and *Retail Trade* (30) gained jobs in March as preparation for the spring and summer retail season began. At the same time, the railroad laid off nearly 20 workers in the *Trade, Transportation & Utilities* industry, offsetting some of the overall gains. Pocatello hosted the Dodge National Circuit Finals Rodeo in March, which added jobs in *Leisure & Hospitality* (20), but those job gains were offset by job losses in *Finance*

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	March 2003*	April 2003	March 2002	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	40,710	40,250	39,070	1.1	4.2
Unemployment	2,070	2,100	2,580	-1.4	-19.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.1	5.2	6.6		
Total Employment	38,640	38,150	36,490	1.3	5.9
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	41,490	41,030	39,670	1.1	4.6
Unemployment	2,300	2,500	2,810	-8.0	-18.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.5	6.1	7.1		
Total Employment	39,190	38,530	36,860	1.7	6.3
<b>JOB BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	33,600	33,670	32,900	-0.2	2.1
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	4,320	4,330	4,100	-0.2	5.4
Natural Resources & Mining	10	10	10	0.0	0.0
Construction	1,670	1,660	1,420	0.6	17.6
Manufacturing	2,640	2,660	2,670	-0.8	-1.1
Food Manufacturing	430	430	480	0.0	-10.4
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	130	140	120	-7.1	8.3
Machinery Manufacturing	40	40	30	0.0	33.3
Other Manufacturing	2,040	2,050	2,040	-0.5	0.0
<b>Service-Producing Industries</b>	29,280	29,340	28,810	-0.2	1.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,740	6,710	6,610	0.4	2.0
Wholesale Trade	1,080	1,060	1,010	1.9	6.9
Retail Trade	4,410	4,380	4,320	0.7	2.1
Utilities	50	50	50	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,200	1,220	1,210	-1.6	-0.8
Information	680	680	660	0.0	3.0
Financial Activities	1,700	1,720	1,780	-1.2	-4.5
Professional & Business Services	3,270	3,310	3,330	-1.2	-1.8
Educational & Health Services	2,720	2,700	3,030	0.7	-10.2
Leisure & Hospitality	3,230	3,210	3,090	0.6	4.5
Other Services	1,310	1,310	1,190	0.0	10.1
Government Education	5,490	5,550	5,620	-1.1	-2.3
Government Administration	4,140	4,150	3,490	-0.2	18.6

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

*Activities* (-20), *Professional & Business Service* (-40), *Government Education* (-60), and *Government Administration* (-10). The major change was in *Government Education* because the number of students employed in work-study programs at Idaho State University declined.

From one-year-ago, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased 2.1 percent. The change may be partially because of milder weather in March 2003 than in March 2002. Inclement weather in March 2002 delayed many spring activities that occurred in March 2003, such as construction and recreation. In March 2003 the *Goods-Producing Industries* outpaced March 2002 by 220 jobs. The job gains were exclusively in *Construction* because of residential projects and construction of the Idaho State University Performing Arts Center. In March 2003 the *Service-Producing Industries* outpaced March 2002

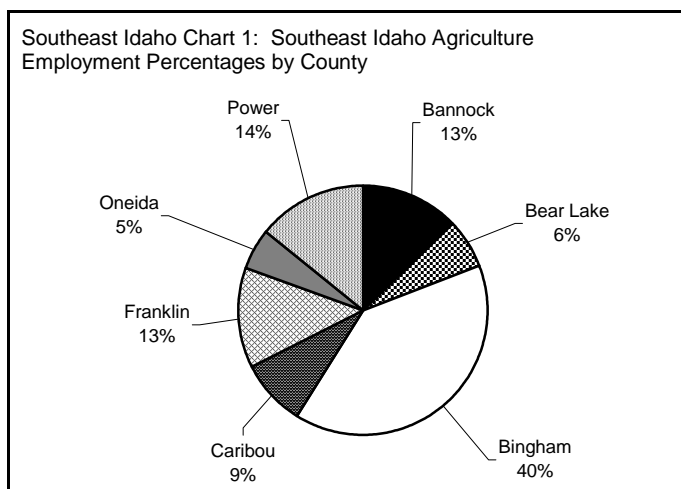
by 470 jobs. Most job gains were in *Wholesale and Retail Trade* (160), *Leisure & Hospitality* (140) and *Other Services* (120). Gains were partially offset by losses in *Transportation* because of layoffs at the Union Pacific Railroad and decreases in *Government Education*. Southeast Idaho Table 1 shows dramatic changes from March 2002 to March 2003 in *Education & Health Services*, down 310 jobs, and in *Government Administration*, which had an increase of 650 jobs. These changes are mostly because of the merger of a private hospital with a county-owned hospital where nearly 400 jobs moved from *Education & Health* to *Government Administration*. The remaining increase in *Government Administration* was because of added jobs in *Federal Government* for airport security and spring/summer related maintenance projects.

### SPECIAL TOPIC: Agricultural Employment

In March, signs of spring could be seen all over Southeast Idaho in the form of agricultural activities. Newborn calves, lambs, and colts could be seen in pastures throughout Southeast Idaho as well as field preparation for the 2003 crop-growing season.

Agriculture is a large industry in Idaho. The Idaho Department of Labor estimates agricultural employment to be approximately 5.5 percent of total annual average employment. It is particularly important to Southeast Idaho where it provides approximately 5.8 percent of the area's annual average employment. Agriculture employment includes operators, paid or unpaid family members, and hired workers.

Southeast Idaho Chart 1 shows that the largest percentage of agriculture employment in Southeast Idaho is in Bingham County at 40 percent. Many of the crops grown in Bingham County are labor-intensive, such as potatoes, sugar beets, and alfalfa. This requires hiring seasonal domestic workers as well as migrant workers who either migrate to the area to work during the crop-growing season or follow the crops from area to area, assisting with harvest.



Agriculture employment and its relative importance to an area vary from county to county within the Southeast Idaho region. Southeast Idaho Table 2 shows the

relative importance of agriculture to each county in the region. Power County has the highest proportion of agriculture employment when compared with total employment of any county in Southeast at 21.0 percent. Bannock County has the lowest at just 1.5 percent.

Southeast Idaho Table 2: Agricultural Employment			
2002	Agriculture Employment	Total Employment	% of Total Employment
Bannock	553	36,882	1.5
Bear Lake	274	2,677	10.2
Bingham	1,705	21,422	8.0
Caribou	371	3,025	12.3
Franklin	550	4,877	11.3
Oneida	234	1,624	14.4
Power	606	2,890	21.0
Southeast Idaho	4,293	73,397	5.8

This year, agriculture faces familiar uncertainties: drought, increased costs of inputs, weather uncertainties, and fluctuating market prices. But area farmers and ranchers have proven, time and time again, their resilience and ability to make the best under adverse conditions.

### AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

*Please note: Information contained in Area Economic Developments is obtained from area newspapers, local Job Service offices, trade publications, local area Chambers of Commerce publications, and other sources.*

#### Bannock County

- Global Food Technologies, Inc. in Pocatello announced it expects to hire approximately 200 people by the end of the year. The company recently received approval of patents for systems that reduce bacteria in seafood; it plans to produce similar systems for poultry and meat. Testing and manufacturing of these systems will be done in the Pocatello facility. The company plans to hire the first 30 people by mid-summer 2003.
- IHOP (International House of Pancakes) opened at 4122 Yellowstone Avenue in Chubbuck. The business, which opened in February, employs approximately 60 people.
- Funky-Junque, an antique store, opened at 1225 East Clark in Pocatello. Laura and Arden Olson own the store.
- A soccer specialty shop, Soccer Rockers, opened at 171 Jefferson in Pocatello. The family-owned and operated business specializes in clothing and equipment for soccer players and teams.
- Winward Physical Therapy has opened a clinic in McCammon. The clinic is open Tuesdays and Thursdays and offers rehabilitative, sports injury, and pain therapy.

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- The Butcher Block Meat Company in Pocatello has expanded. The meat company, which provides meat to several area restaurants and is a vendor for many food services, now features a deli at its South Main location. The business employs eight people.

#### **Bingham County**

- AutoZone Auto Parts opened in Blackfoot in February. The store is located at 100 North Meridian and employs six workers.
- A new exercise center, Curves for Women, has opened at the Riverside Plaza in Blackfoot. The center provides hydraulic resistance exercise equipment and circuit exercise system designed specifically for women.
- Venustas Villa, a new day spa, opened in Blackfoot. The spa offers hairstyling and massage therapy. The business is located at Lake View Plaza, Suite 4.

#### **Caribou County**

- All American Video has opened in the former City Drug Store on Main Street in Soda Springs. The 3,800-square-foot store has been completely remodeled and carries approximately 8,000 videos,

DVDs, and games. The store employs approximately 12 people.

#### **Franklin County**

- The Greater Preston Area Chamber of Commerce has changed locations. The new office is located at 49 North State Street in Preston. The new office also includes a conference room for conducting chamber meetings.
- The Preston O.P. Skaggs store, which opened in 1927, closed in February 2002. The store's closure eliminated more than 40 jobs.

#### **Power County**

- Harms Memorial Hospital completed construction of its new physical therapy building, adjacent to the hospital. The new facility provides space for improved physical therapy treatments including musculoskeletal, neurological, geriatric, wound care, and others. The physical therapy department employs three workers.

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## Seaport News — (continued from page 10)

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open as early as December. Port officials had hoped that a massive office building that Regence Blue Shield has committed to construct would be the business and technology park's anchor tenant, with completion scheduled for 2005. At 55,000-square feet, the office will be one of the largest in Lewiston. It will occupy about 10 acres or one-fifth of the business and technology park.

- According to a visitor's survey, an estimated 50,000 people who have crossed Lolo Pass during the last year say they're on the trail of Lewis and Clark. Visitors at two Montana sites have been asked if they are in the region because of the bicentennial of the Corps of Discovery. The positive replies are not the millions some have predicted for the next three years, but they do indicate people are coming. In preparation, the Nez Perce County Commissioners have approved an agreement with the Clearwater

Economic Development Association to administer a \$120,000 grant that will assist with emergency services during the bicentennial. The cities of Lapwai and Culdesac will receive about \$16,000 and \$8,000, respectively, for their quick response units. Both the sheriff's air and mounted posse will receive money for equipment, including snowmobiles and ATVs. Additional enhancements will be made to communications improved with previous year's grants. Five Idaho counties and three in Montana are working together to respond to emergencies, particularly along the Lolo Motorway and U.S. Highway 12.

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